

### Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 18-22 and 24-44 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-8, 10-17, 23, 45 and 46 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended) An image recording apparatus for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium ~~in accordance with image data by recording means~~, comprising:

recording means for applying the coloring material in accordance with image data;

conveying means for conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both ~~[[of]]~~ a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium;

setting means for variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

control means for controlling a conveying operation by said conveying means such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by said recording means is started after passage of time set by said setting means, wherein after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a predetermined recording medium waiting position not opposed to said recording means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the length of time set by said setting means at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to said recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium.

2. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with [[the]] a number of application applications of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium.

3. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with [[the]] a number of application applications of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium and a kind of the recording medium.

4. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when [[said]] the number of application applications of ink is a first

number, a first length of time is set, while when ~~[[said]]~~ the number of ~~application~~ applications of ink is smaller than the first number, a second length of time shorter than the first length of time is set.

5. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the number of ~~application~~ applications of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium is smaller than ~~[[said]]~~ the number of ~~application~~ applications of ink on the second recording side of the recording medium.

6. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with a recording duty of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium.

7. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with ~~[[the]]~~ a recording duty of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and the kind of the recording medium.

8. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when ~~[[said]]~~ the recording duty is a first duty, a first length of time is set, while when ~~[[said]]~~ the recording duty is lower than the first duty, a second length of time shorter than the first length of time is set.

9. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the recording duty of the first recording side of the recording medium is lower than the recording duty of the second recording side of the recording medium.

10. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with an application amount of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium.

11. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with [[the]] an application amount of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium and the kind of the recording medium.

12. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein when [[said]] the application amount of ink is a first amount, a first length of time is set, while when [[said]] the application amount of ink is smaller than the first amount, a second length of time shorter than the first length of time is set.

13. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the application amount of ink on the first recording side of the recording medium is smaller than [[said]] the application amount of ink on the second recording side of the recording medium.

14. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with an amount of data for applying ink of the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium.

15. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the length of time set by said setting means is set in accordance with [[the]] an amount of data for applying ink of the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and the kind of the recording medium.

16. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein when [[said]] the amount of data for applying ink is a first amount, a first length of time is set, while when [[said]] the amount of data is smaller than the first amount, a second length of time shorter than the first length of time is set.

17. (Currently amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein [[said]] the amount of data for applying ink on the first recording side of the recording medium is smaller than [[said]] the amount of data for applying ink on the second recording side of the recording medium.

Claims 18-22 (cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) An image recording method for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium in accordance with image data by recording means, comprising the steps of:

~~a conveying step of~~ conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both ~~[[of]]~~ a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium;

~~a setting step of~~ variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

~~a controlling step of~~ controlling a conveying operation of the recording medium such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by ~~[[said]]~~ the recording means is started after passage of time set ~~[[by]]~~ in said setting ~~[[means]]~~ step, wherein

after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a predetermined recording medium waiting position not opposed to the recording means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the set length of time at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to the recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium.

Claims 24-44 (cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for executing a control processing of an image recording apparatus for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium in accordance with image data by recording means,

wherein said program comprises the steps of:

(a) conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both [[of]] a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium;

(b) variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

(c) controlling conveyance of the recording medium such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by [[said]] the recording means is started after passage of time set [[by]] in said setting step, wherein

after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a predetermined recording medium waiting position not opposed to the recording means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the set length of time at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to the recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium.

46. (Currently amended) A program for executing a control processing of an image recording apparatus for recording an image by applying a coloring material on a recording medium in accordance with image data by recording means, comprising the steps of:

(a) conveying the recording medium so as to permit recording on both [[of]] a first recording side and a second recording side of the recording medium;

(b) variably setting a length of time between an end of recording on the first recording side of the recording medium and a start of recording on the second recording side of the recording medium in accordance with the image data for recording on the first recording side of the recording medium; and

(c) controlling conveyance of the recording medium such that recording on the second recording side of the recording medium by [[said]] the recording means is started after passage of time set [[by]] in said setting [[means]] step, wherein

after recording on the first recording side of the recording medium, the recording medium is conveyed to a predetermined recording medium waiting position not opposed to the recording means, and then after waiting for a period corresponding to the set length of time at the recording medium waiting position, the recording medium is conveyed to a position opposed to the recording means so as to conduct the recording on the second recording side of the recording medium.